

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00518 132017Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02  
/082 W

-----132019Z 109139 /70

R 130826Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMASSY PORT LOUIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6707  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
COMIDEASTFOR  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0518

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR PINT PGOV ECON EFIN ELAB MP  
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - MAY 13 SUMMARY

REF: PORT LOUIS 494

1. SPARKED BY THE PRECARIOUSNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY, RUMORS AND COUNTER-RUMORS OF PARTY DEFECTIONS PLUS AN INTENSIFICATION OF BEHIND-THE-SCENES MANEUVERING DOMINATED THE POLITICAL SCENE THIS PAST WEEK. MMM LEADER BERENGER SPOKE OF FOUR OPTIONS THE POLITICAL FUTURE HOLDS, AND SEEMED TO FAVOR THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMING A MMM GOVERNMENT WITH THE HELP OF CERTAIN LEFT-WING LABORITIES WHO WOULD MAINTAIN THEIR SEPARATE POLITICAL IDENTITIES OUTSIDE THE MMM. SIGNS OF DIVISION INSIDE THE MMM APPEARED WHEN MMM DEPUTY MOORBA RESIGNED FROM THE PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE. RUMORS OF HIS DEFECTION TO THE LABOR PARTY  
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WERE RIFE.

2. THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SESSIONS WERE DOMINATED BY THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE. IN A TWO AND ONE HALF HOUR SPEECH, BERENGER ATTACKED THE BUDGET AS BEING "FUTILE AND IRRESPONSIBLE." HE TOOK THE OCCASION TO COMMENT ON THE EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE, AND PROMISED THAT THE MMM WOULD

NOT NATIONALIZE THE FACTORIES THERE, BUT WOULD EVENTUALLY  
"INTEGRATE" THEM INTO THE REST OF THE ECONOMY.

3. THE INFORMAL GROUPING OF FIVE LABOR UNIONS WHICH FORMED TO  
OPPOSE THE LABOR MINISTER'S MOVE TO ABOLISH OBLIGATORY DUES,  
FORMALIZED ITS ORGANIZATION UNDER THE NAME OF NATIONAL SYNDICATE  
FRONT. IT PROMISED TO PUSH FOR WAGE INCREASES FOR THE WORKERS.

4. MMM'S JEAN CLAUDE DE L'ESTRAC, WHO WAS SELECTED AS MAYOR OF  
BEAU BASSIN/ROSE HILL FOLLOWING THE APRIL 24 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS,  
WAS TAKEN TO COURT LAST WEEK BY A DEFEATED LABOR CANDIDATE. THE  
CHALLENGER CONTENDS DE L'ESTRAC IS NOT A LEGAL RESIDENT IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY AND THEREFORE MUST BE DISQUALIFIED.

5. THE LABOR PARTY IS HOLDING A LARGE REGIONAL CONGRESS IN THE  
SOUTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND THIS COMING WEEKEND IN AN AVOWED  
ATTEMPT TO GUAGE THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE MORE EFFECTIVELY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REFORM, GOVERNMENT BUDGET, POLITICAL SITUATION, OPPOSITION PARTIES, LABOR UNIONS, LOCAL ELECTIONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009